

*A. Whitehall*  
BOROUGH OF HAVERFORDWEST



# Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer Of Health

For The Year 1937



Dr. Geo. J. Bowen, M.O.H.



# To the Mayor and Corporation of Haverfordwest

---

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1936-1937.

The official estimate of the mid-year resident population 1937 is 6,354, and the number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 1,807. The sum represented by a penny rate is £110 per annum. During the last three years the population has increased by 50, and the 1d. rate yield by £16 per annum. The death rate is down by 3 per 1,000 head of population and is now 11.3 per 1,000 inhabitants, as compared with a figure of 12.4 per thousand for the whole country.

The birth rate of 15.7 per 1,000 is also better than that for the whole country by exactly the same proportion.

## Live Births:

	M.	F.
Legitimate .....	54	40
Illegitimate .....	4	2
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .....		15.7
Stillbirths .....	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) .....		19.2
Deaths .....	31	41
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .....		11.3

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short list):—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis .....	0	0
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes ...	0	0

## Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	39
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	42.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	17
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	0

I cannot name any cause of sickness or invalidity which has been specially noteworthy in the area during the year, or find any significant evidence of the effect of unemployment on the health of the inhabitants of the town.

# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1937.

	Male.	Female.
Influenza .....	0	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis .....	3	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	0	0
Cancer .....	7	10
Peptic Ulcer .....	1	0
Other Digestive Diseases .....	1	1
Appendicitis .....	0	0
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	1	3
Bronchitis .....	2	2
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	0	1
Heart Disease .....	3	5
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	2	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage .....	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	3	4
G.P.I. Tabes, etc. ....	0	1
Suicide .....	0	0
Other Violence .....	1	1
Other Defined Diseases .....	5	6
Premature Births, etc. ....	1	1
	—	—
Total	31	41
	—	—

## CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1937 (TUBERCULOSIS EXCLUDED).

Disease	Cases notified	Admitted to hospl.	Deaths
Pneumonia .....	3	0	0
Scarlet Fever .....	15	3	0
Erysipelas .....	1	0	0
Diphtheria .....	9	5	0

The pneumonia was notified in adults aged 30, 53, and 70 years. respectively. The scarlet fever and diphtheria occurred in the following age groups:—

		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.	
		F.	M.	F.	M.
under-1 year	.....	0	0	0	0
1-2 years	.....	0	0	0	0
2-3 years	.....	0	0	0	0
3-4 years	.....	0	1	0	0
4-5 years	.....	0	0	2	0
5-10 years	.....	6	3	3	3
10-15 years	.....	2	2	0	0
35-45 years	.....	1	0	0	0
45-65 years	.....	0	0	1	0

## CANCER.

The use of radium at the County Hospital in the town is on the increase. During 1937 a sum of £103 was spent by the Hospital Board of Management for Radium lent by the Radium Institute.

Portions of tumours and suspected malignant growths removed by operation at the Hospital are sent for examination by the Clinical Research Association, London, as a routine practice.

## AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF THE DEATHS FROM CANCER IN THE TOWN.

	Male	Female.
under 40 years	0	0
40-45 years	0	1
45-50 years	1	0
50-55 years	1	1
55-60 years	0	0
60-65 years	2	1
65-70 years	1	4
Over 70 years	2	3
	—	—
Total	7	10
	—	—

# TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Resptry.		Non- Resptry.		Resptry.		Non- Resptry.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0- .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5- .....	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15- .....	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25- .....	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	—
35- .....	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
45- .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55- .....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	5	9	2	—	3	2	—	—

More than 50 per cent. of the new cases are notified by the Tuberculosis Physician. Notification by Private Doctors in the town is satisfactory.

Numbers on the Register at the end of 1937.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary.
24	12	40	8
		Total 83.	

At the end of 1936 there were 72 on the Register. In the meantime there were 16 additions and 5 deaths. There is no known case of tuberculosis engaged in the Milk Trade.

Five houses were completely disinfected following deaths from tuberculosis.

# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE.

---

## **Infectious Diseases.**

Hospitals for the Treatment and Isolation of Infectious Diseases are provided at Pembroke Dock and Eglwysrwrw (Small Pox).

Antitoxio Sera are provided by the Council to Local Doctors for use in approved urgent cases of Diphtheria and serious infections.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is housed at the County Hospital. Dr. Hawkins, the Tuberculosis Physician, holds his clinic there every Wednesday. Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases are treated at Sealyham Hospital, and non-pulmonary cases in children at the Kensington Hospital, St. Brides.

## **Maternity.**

Beds are available at the Public Assistance Institution for necessitous cases, and complicated cases are accepted at the County Hospital, where six new beds will be provided for this special purpose soon. Two district nurses and four registered nurses practise in the town.

## **School and Infant Clinics.**

The County Health Authorities hold weekly clinics at their rooms in Hill Street, Haverfordwest.

Dental treatment, ocular examinations and treatments are included. An orthopaedic surgeon visits the county monthly, holding his clinic at Narberth, and one special nurse is provided by the county for orthopaedic work.

## **The General Hospital.**

The beds regularly occupied in the hospital vary from 70 to 74, but it is hoped that very soon the number of beds available will be near the 100 mark.

The total number of cases admitted to the hospital during the year was 1,169. Of these 789 were surgical, 192 accidents; 145 were medical, and maternity cases amounted to 22.

The hospital was provided with a House Surgeon during the year, and visiting specialists in eye, ear, nose, and throat complaints were in regular attendance on advertised dates. The general surgery of the hospital is done by three local surgeons.



## **School Sanitation.**

The Council Authority is only concerned with the sanitation water supplies of the local schools, and visits are made at intervals to inspect their out-buildings and water supplies.

The new school in Portfield is nearing completion, and should be in use before the year is out.

## **Housing.**

The number of new houses completed during the year reached a total of 96. Of these 35 were built by private enterprise and 61 under the municipal housing scheme.

The number of dwellings found overcrowded at the end of the year was 50; 289 persons found accommodation in these places.

Under the Slum Clearance Scheme 30 of the houses down for demolition have been pulled down; some 40 more will follow in due course.

## **Food Supplies.**

The sale of milk in the town is carefully supervised. In the Sanitary Inspector's report is given the number of inspections of dairies and milk shops made by him, and the number of licences granted by the Town Council is included. The Authority is also responsible for the conditions under which all perishable food is shown for sale.

The necessity for strict control has been amply demonstrated recently, when itinerant food purveyors operating from Haverfordwest were brought into the orbit of the enquiry into the origin of the recent St. Davids epidemic. The daily grocery van with fresh provisions is a notable advance in the amenities of rural life, but every central Town or District Authority concerned has thereby been burdened with grave additional responsibility.

## **Meat at the Public Abattoir.**

During the year many visits to the slaughter house were made, the majority being made in the company of the Sanitary Inspector, and usually at his request. He gives details of his own work in the attached report. The carcasses viewed have been found healthy and fit for consumption with very few exceptions, and these exceptions have been amongst the cattle. Tuberculosis has been the one reason for condemnation, and this has only been found in cattle.

The principles embodied in the recommendations of the Royal Commission of 1895 are followed.



## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, inclu- ding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if <del>known</del> ) .....	1078	0	232	2514	1101
Number Inspected .....	120	0	0	0	0
All diseases except tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned .....	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affec- ted with disease other than tuberculosis .....	0	0	0	0	0

### Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned .....	5	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	10	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	1.4%	0	0	0	0

## Water Supplies.

The town water is mainly supplied by the pump from the well at river level at Crowhill. A daily average of 200,000 gallons is maintained. The well-head and pumping station is situated about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile above the weir on the river, and 100ft. away from the stream on its right bank. The well is 23ft. in depth, and the soil around is of loose porous sand and gravel.

No evidence to support the theory that water drawn from the well is artesian in source can be produced. Shallow wells in the neighbourhood have dried since the construction of the 12ft. x 8ft. adit at the bottom of the well, and the yield of water is uniform along the walls of this adit.

It is obvious that a considerable amount of natural filtration takes place through the porous soil, and chemical and bacteriological tests of the water have always hitherto been satisfactory. Danger of any pollution seems remote.

When supplies of water from towns in this country are taken directly from rivers the water in most cases is made to undergo elaborate treatment, but in our own instance the whole catchment area is practically free of any source of gross contamination, and beyond the need for periodic tests there is no immediate necessity for drastic change. It is freely admitted that a closed supply from the hills would be a comfort, and would definitely and finally remove all misgivings, yet the present supply can be, if required, treated by additional filtration, sedimentation and chlorination at far less expense.

During the recent epidemic of Typhoid Fever steps were taken to chlorinate the water by hand, and the treatment was carried out during this danger period, but the measure was purely precautionary, and temporary analyses (2) of the water demonstrated the treatment superfluous.

### **Drainage and Disposal of Refuse.**

The disposal of dry refuse is undertaken by the Corporation. The tip on the Marsh is rapidly filling up and the controlled tipping now carried out is giving good results. Fermentable matter is, in fact, being covered **too** quickly, for enormous heat is being generated in the ground for many yards away from the edge of the tip. I had recently to criticise the burning of old useless motor tyres on the dump; the smoke and the smell from such fires is a definite nuisance unless a N.W. wind is blowing. I consider that the fires on the dump should be kept small and the type of refuse to be burnt be more restricted.

During the year, besides the connecting up of new houses in Prendergast and Winch Lane to the existing sewers, a sewerage system has been constructed by the Council at Prospect Place to serve their new twelve acre building estate. At Mill Bank defects in the old sewer in the locality and in many house drains have been found, and must be remedied before the winter.

The Dale Road open road-side drain will shortly be attended to. The new Surveyor will have as one of his first duties the task of planning and laying down a plant for the automatic pumping of this free effluent of septic tanks into the high level sewer on the Haven Road.

There are 7 septic tanks, 15 cesspools, and 42 earth closets in use in the area under the supervision of the Council. Only seven of these earth closets, however, can be connected up to the existing water carriage system, and this matter is at the present time being attended to.

The sewers in Haverfordwest empty by six main outlets into the river between and below the bridges spanning the Cleddau. There has been some reference in the Press to this on several occasions recently, and adverse criticisms have been made on our method of disposal of crude sewage.

Situated as Haverfordwest is, with the river dividing the town into two parts and the buildings perched on seven rises of ground, a change into a closed system of drainage is at present impracticable. The expense of leading one or two main collecting sewers to an area half-a-mile below the town and into a tank system, prior to discharging the effluents into the river, would reach the figure of £12,000 and more.

No proof can be provided that the present system has had any ill effect on the health of the population. The multiplicity of openings and

the cleansing effect of special scouring channels, and the diurnal tide (average 10ft. rise and fall), effectively prevent a nuisance or danger to health.

Examination of the river banks proves that no residual humus is left by the tide, and the clean seaweed-covered hard on the river below Fernhill are a proof that the infinite dilution which the town effluent undergoes in river water and tide effectively and satisfactorily disposes of it. Suggestions made that the towns near the sea suffer from this happy way of getting rid of sewage are utterly without foundation.

The river bed in the town needs a thorough clean-up, and this work is in hand at the moment. It should be made a punishable offence to dump old iron and other unsightly litter into the river.

### **Factory and Workshops' Act.**

The number of inspections and properties under this heading is shown in the Inspector's Report. Young persons under 16 are required to attend on Wednesday mornings at 11 a.m. at Market Street for examination according to the provisions of this Act. Periodic examinations are made of employees engaged in handling lead.

No certificate of disablement was granted under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1925 (section 43 and 44).

### **Public Health During 1937.**

The general health of the community has been good, and no special comment is required. Public Health Legislation is as in 1936.

I enclose a copy of the Sanitary Inspector's Report, and  
Remain,

Your obedient servant,

**GEO. J. BOWEN, M.B. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.).**

Medical Officer of Health,

Market Street, Haverfordwest, July, 1938.

# HAVERFORDWEST CORPORATION.

## Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year ended

### 31/12/37.

#### GENERAL.

Number of Inspections .....	445
Number of Re-Inspections .....	121
Number of Complaints received .....	32
Number of Nuisances abated without complaints .....	103
Number of Notices served:—	
(a) Informal .....	33
(b) Statutory .....	1

#### DRAINS, W.C.'s, ETC.

Total Defects found .....	15
Drains Cleared .....	12
New Drains laid to existing premises .....	1
W.C.'s Renewed .....	2

#### RATS.

Complaints of Rats complied with .....	2
--	---

#### MANURE.

Notices served requiring Removal of Manure .....	1
Notices complied with .....	1

#### ABATTOIR.

Number on Register (Public Abattoir) .....	1
Number of Inspections .....	120
Number of Animals Slaughtered:—	
(a) Beasts .....	1078
(b) Calves .....	232
(c) Sheep .....	2514
(d) Pigs .....	1101

#### DISEASED MEAT.

Complete Carcases surrendered at Abattoir .....	5
Part Carcases surrendered at Abattoir .....	10

#### UN SOUND FOOD.

Surrender of Unsound Food .....	Nil
---------------------------------	-----

#### BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register .....	24
Number of Inspections .....	30
Defects found and remedied .....	Nil

## **DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.**

Number on Register .....	26
Number of Inspections .....	40
Defects found and remedied .....	1

## **COWSHEDS.**

Number on Register .....	10
Number of Inspections .....	20
Defects found and remedied .....	1

## **MILK VENDORS.**

Number on Register .....	36
(a) Certified T.T. Tested .....	2
(b) Accredited .....	4
(c) Ordinary .....	30
Number of Samples taken for Analysis (Ordinary) .....	9
Number of Samples taken for Analysis (Certified) .....	2

## **FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**

Number on Register .....	77
Number of Inspections .....	75
Defects found and remedied .....	3

## **FUMIGATION.**

Number of Inspections of Infected Houses .....	10
Number of Premises Fumigated .....	9

## **WATER SUPPLY.**

Samples Taken for Analysis .....	1
----------------------------------	---

### **(1) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING YEAR.**

(1)	(a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	80
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose .....	103
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	77
(3)	Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	6

### **(2) REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.**

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....	26
---	----



### (3) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

- (a) Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
  - (2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
    - (a) By Owners ..... Nil
    - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
- (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... Nil
  - (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
    - (a) By Owners ..... Nil
    - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... 55
  - (2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... 30
  - (3) Number of Dwelling Houses closed as a result of undertakings given by owners ..... 22

### (4) HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

- (a)
- (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ..... 50
  - (2) Number of Families dwelling therein ..... 57
  - (3) Number of Persons dwelling therein ..... 289
- (b) Number of New Cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... 3
- (c)
- (1) Number of Cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..... Nil
  - (2) Number of Persons concerned in such cases .. Nil
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling Houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..... Nil

ROLAND R. HOLE, p.p., D.B.E.





